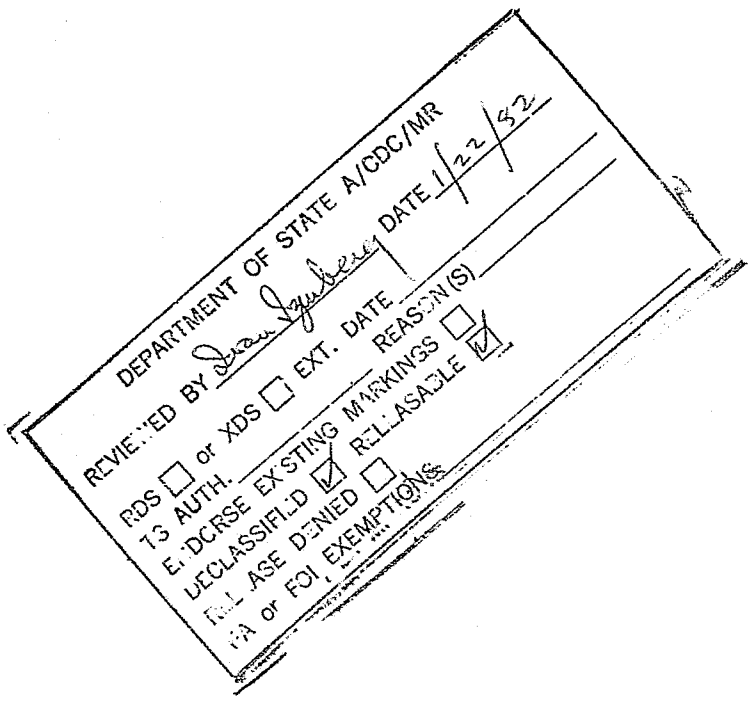
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dawn Ingalsbee DATE 1/22/32
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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THROES OF WAR. IT ALSO ADDS CREDIBILITY TO PRESIDENT THIEU'S OFFER TO HIS COMMUNIST ADVERSARIES OF A CHANCE TO COMPETE THROUGH ELECTORAL RATHER THAN ARMED CONTEST.

4. ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL SUM OF OPPOSITION IN THE UPPER HOUSE IS LITTLE CHANGED BY THIS ELECTION (STILL ABOUT 16 OUT OF 60 SENATORS), THE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS NOW HAVE A STAKE IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TOWARDS A MORE MODERATE ROLE. THE STRENGTH OF THE INDEPENDENTS IS INCREASED BUT THE UPPER HOUSE SHOULD BE ONE WITH WHICH PRESIDENT THIEU CAN CONSTRUCTIVELY WORK.

5. THE AMERICAN PRESS MAY BE QUICK TO INTERPRET THE HIGH VOTE FOR THE AN QUANG SUPPORTED MAU SLATE AS A PUBLIC REPUDIATION OF THE THIEU GOVERNMENT. THIS IS CLEARLY FALSE. THE SLATES FRIENDLY TO THE GOVERNMENT ALSO RECEIVED A HEAVY VOTE. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE PRESIDENT'S STAFF THAT THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE WILL BE CAREFULLY ANALYSED IN PREPARATION FOR THIEU'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN THIS COMING YEAR.)

6. THE ELECTION PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF FORWARD MOVEMENT IN VIETNAMESE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND I THINK WE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION FROM ITS OUTCOME.
BERGER

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ACTION		
EA-8		
RM/R 1	REP	AF
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NEA	CU	INR 6
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L	FBO	AID
S/PRS 1		
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 16	NAVY 5
OSD 34	USIA 10	NSA 3
NSC 6		

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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A-255 NO.

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HANDLING INDICATOR

RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE SEP 25 AM 1970

TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO BANGKOK, CINCPAC POLAD, DANANG, USDEL FRANCE (2), VIENTIANE

NSTAN ANALYSIS BRANCH

Action Assigned to VN

Action Taken

FROM Amembassy SAIGON

DATE: September 19, 1970

SUBJECT: Assessment of Upper House Election Results

Date of Action 9/28/70

REF Saigon tel 14255

SUMMARY:

The August 30 election for half the seats in the Upper House is commonly considered to be one of the most honest elections ever held in Vietnam on the national level. The opposition slate headed by Vu Van Mau edged out the pro-GVN slate of Senator Huynh Van Cao to win first place in the voting. Mau's slate had the backing of the An Quang Buddhists. The third-place victor in the balloting went to the independent slate led by Upper House Chairman Nguyen Van Huyen. Thirteen other slates competed but failed to win Upper House seats. The voter turnout was somewhat low by Vietnamese standards (65.7% of the eligible voters) but nevertheless constituted a respectable showing.

The main trends noted in the election results were the following:

a) Despite the first-place victory of Mau's opposition list, the pro-government slates polled nearly half the total votes. The opposition slates received roughly one-fourth of the votes, and the independents became a major political force in their own right with approximately one-fourth of the votes.

b) The "peace" issue did not appear to be decisive with many voters.

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Drafted by: POL:HSizer:TATuttle:mm 9/14/70 HS TAT by HSS

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